

Appl. No. 09/961,092
Amdt. Dated October 20, 2004
Reply to Office action of September 28, 2004

REMARKS

This is in response to the final office action mailed on September 28, 2004 in respect to the above application.

In the office action, the examiner has indicated that he considered claims 32 to 34 to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the various claim and any intervening claims.

While applicants believe that all claims distinguish over the references identified by the examiner, in order to facilitate prosecution of the present application, and without prejudice, the applicants hereby amend the claims so as to rewrite allowable dependent claim 32 in independent form, together with the limitations of dependent claim 31 and independent claim 13, upon which allowable claim 32 depends. Consequently, dependent claims 31 and 32 have been cancelled as their subject matter is introduced into in currently amended independent claim 13. Dependent claims 33 and 34 are currently amended to depend directly on claim 13. No other amendments are made herewith.

The applicants submit that dependent claims 14 – 23, 27 – 30, and 33 – 34 are also allowable because they depend from an allowable base claim.

In light of the amendments made herewith, applicants respectfully request allowance of the application.

Yours Respectfully,



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